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Flamuri.

CONDITIONS IN KAMZE CONCENTRATION CAMP

Skender Dume

The Kamze concentration camp consists of a barracks 70 x 100 meters. One kilometer west of this is another barracks of the same dimensions. A courtyard 80 x 100 meters encircles each barracks. These courtyards are enclosed by a fence.

The director of the camp is Shyqri Zelka.

The barracks are wooden, in poor condition, and unpainted. Rain constantly seeps through the walls and ceilings. The barracks have never been disinfected. The locality is unhealthy, especially for the young. Internees sleep on the floor in common rooms without heat and much of the time without light.

There are 900 internees in this camp, including children, old men and women, and a few young men. All the internees come from the southern rreths of Albania. Families have been interned because some member was forced to flee the country because of participation in antigovernment activiti 3. Among them are women and girls who have been interned since 1945.

Many have caught pneumonia, since the internees are not permitted to bring any blankets or bedding with them, and the government does not provide such materials.

All internees, from 14 to 60 years old, without exception, work on the Ylli i Kug (Red Star) State Farm or in the brick factory near Laprake. They work from 0/00 to 1800 hours under barbaric conditions. In addition, the women have to collect wood in the evenings in order to keep their children warm.

Those who work receive 600 grams of corn bread and a dish of soup per day. Others receive 400 grams of corn bread and a poorer quality soup.

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In the summer of 1950 between 30 and 40 children under 5 years of age and others died because of hunger or unhealthy living conditions.

Among those dead are:

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Daughter of Osman Sojaku, from Pogradec

Son of Qamil Collaku, from Bilisht

Daughter of Sabri Leminoti, from Leminot, Maliq

Daughter of Rapo Sadikaj, from Selce, Gore

Son of Dalip Pirgu, from Pirg, Korce

Daughter of Shero Tresove, from Tresove, Gore

Daughter of Ganimet Podgorise, from Podgorje, Korce

Son of Batire Oshafi, from Pogradec

Daughter of Tosum Hoxhallani, from Tresove, Gore

Son of Kaim Cerrave, from Cerave, Pogradec

Ligor Gjata, from Bilisht

Nizami Qazimi, from Kapeshtice, Bilisht

Mother of Kaim Cerrave

An old woman named Brakollari (fnu), from Dhusare, Opar

In 1950, an 18 year-old, Bajram Kuci, from Zhulet, Gjinokaster drowned.

All private correspondence is censored. The behavior of the director and the police is very cruel; nevertheless, the morale among the internees is very high and their solidarity and courage are exceptional.

Four hundred children under 5 were freed in November 1951, but their mothers remained.

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